

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



BETTER TOGETHER BECAUSE WE ALL BELONG

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Message from the Executive Director



2024 was another year of growth and exciting progress for Redleaf Cultural Integration (RCI). We continued to expand our senior and community programs to keep up with the changing needs around us—and we're proud of how far we've come.

- We offered customized programs to help newcomers build meaningful connections with the local community.
- We provided stimulating and recreational programs that support both physical and mental well-being.
- We organized culturally themed events to promote multiculturalism and inclusiveness.

Senior programming has always been at the heart of RCI. Over the past year, we expanded our online and in-person senior activities to five days a week, making them more accessible than ever. We also launched a new pilot program—Dementia and Caregiver Support—tailored specifically for the Halton Chinese community.

Our community programs have also continued to evolve. Based on surveys and focus group discussions, we received overwhelmingly positive feedback. It's incredibly encouraging to hear how these programs have improved participants' physical, mental, and social well-being, while helping them feel a deeper sense of belonging.

One highlight of the year was our Chinese New Year celebration, which brought people together to experience Chinese culture in a fun and engaging way. Events like this help integration happen naturally—through shared experiences and meaningful connections.

Looking ahead, we're truly honoured to have been selected as one of Ontario's Senior Active Living Centres for a five-year term. This recognition means so much to us and reflects over a decade of dedicated work serving seniors in our community.

None of this would've been possible without the incredible support of our staff, volunteers, board members, and community partners—and of course, the generous support from government funding. Together, we've built something special.

We're excited to keep growing. We'll continue to offer engaging programs, create warm and welcoming spaces, and help people stay active, connected, and valued. Fostering community and belonging has always been at the heart of what we do—and it always will be.

Thank you for walking this journey with us.

Sincerely,
Lily Hudson
RCI Executive Director

Vision Mission and Governance

Redleaf Cultural Integration is committed to providing support for newcomers to Canada to integrate into the local community. Our different themed projects focus on promoting multiculturalism, the physical and mental health of people of all ages, and enhancing community inclusiveness.

MISSION

To grow a vibrant Chinese community in Halton and support its participation in the day-to-day life of the region.

VISION

To be the leading organization in Halton providing people of Chinese heritage with a social platform where they belong, connect, and integrate to the broader community.

VALUES

Mutual respect; Awareness of cultural diversity; Build a welcoming and inclusive community.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARY REN
Chair

SEAN HUANG
Marketing

CYNTHIA ZHAO
Secretary & Youth Program

AMY LIN
Treasurer & Youth Program

FENGWU TIAN
Seniors Program

TINGHUI LIU
Seniors Program

ZHIGUANG QIAN
Community Program

PENNY PAN
Seniors Program



Seniors Programs

RCI's Senior Active Living and Learning Program provides culturally tailored programming to meet the unique needs of the Chinese senior community in Halton, an often-underserved population. Delivered in Chinese and held at accessible community hubs, the program removes language, cultural, and transportation barriers that typically prevent participation.

Using a hybrid online and onsite model, RCI offers a wide range of weekly online classes including English, fitness, poetry, and vocal training as well as in-person activities such as singing, taichi,

ballroom dancing, modeling, and card games. The program also includes monthly health lectures, hobby groups (photography, gardening club, choir, and band), talent shows, cultural celebrations, pickleball tournaments, and field trips.

These activities help seniors stay socially connected, reduce isolation and loneliness, promote mental and physical well-being, and support independent aging at home. For seniors who are more isolated, the "Friendly Visit" and "Check and Chat" initiatives offer additional connection and support.

PROGRAM IMPACT

8,592

Total direct services delivered

3,555

In-person activity attendance

5,037

Virtual program attendance

150

Total number of senior participants



Program Impact

Weekly virtual classes: 190

Weekly in-person activities: 150

Online health and strength exercise lectures: 14

Elder Scams and Senior Fraud Abuse Prevention Education: 1

Dementia and Caregiver support activities: 3

Pickleball tournaments: 3

Large-scale field trips: 2

Cultural celebration events: 3

100%
Agree

This project met my needs and interests

100%
Agree

I am satisfied with the project activities I participated in

100%
Agree

This project helped me feel more engaged in my community

100%
Agree

This project helped to increase my feeling of safety and well-being

100%
Agree

This project helped to reduce social isolation in the community

100%
Agree

RCI Senior Program increased my use of technology (Zoom, video)

90%
Agree

RCI Senior Program helped me learn about volunteer opportunities



Community Programs

RCI's community programs primarily serve individuals under the age of 65, many of whom are first generation immigrants. These participants often carry the responsibility of raising children while caring for elderly parents roles that can be both rewarding and overwhelming, especially without a strong support network.

Our programs are designed to enhance physical, mental, and social well-being. Through weekly activities like choir, dance, Tai Chi, yoga, and pickleball, participants have found a space to connect with others, relieve stress, and build a strong sense of community and belonging.



Testimonials

These testimonials highlight the positive experiences of our participants and the importance of RCI's community programs in enhancing their quality of life.

“RCI has truly changed my social life» indicate a deep sense of belonging and personal impact.”

“RCI is like a local Facebook—connecting people both online and in-person.”

“After joining RCI, my mom and dad became much happier, they had friends and their own group.”

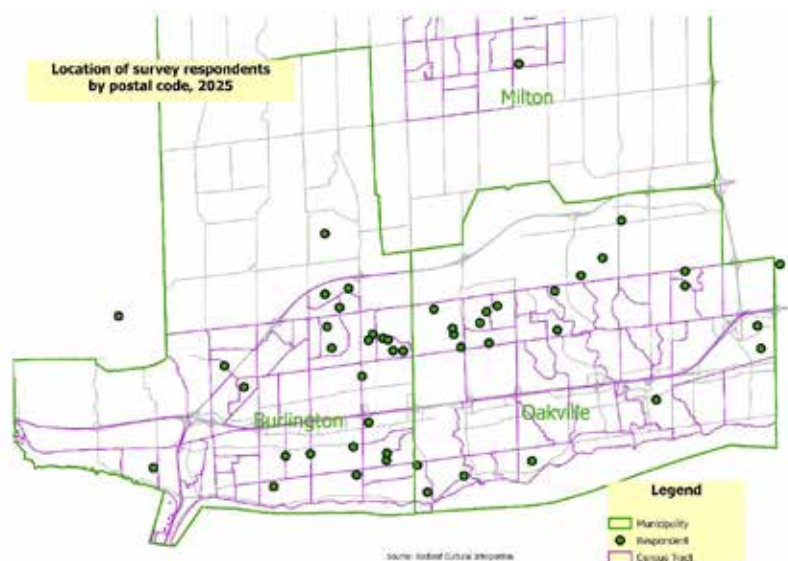
“RCI is the best Chinese community association I have ever participated in”

“Belonging is being accepted for our similarities, but also our differences—our knowledge and experiences.”

“I want to give back to this group that has given me so much.”

“It’s a huge boost for my mental health.”

“RCI gives me a strong sense of belonging and makes this foreign country feel more like home.”



RCI hired Community Development Halton to conduct a survey and focus group evaluating its Community Program. The findings indicate the program has had a very positive impact.

96.05%
Agree

Through my participation, I have increased my social connections

97.37%
Agree

Because I participated in RCI program over the past year, I have built a sense of belonging

94.74%
Agree

Through RCI, I have tried new activities

97.37%
Agree

Participation in RCI activities has led to me developing new interests and/or hobbies

96.05%
Agree

RCI activities have improved my physical and mental health

97.33%
Agree

Participation in RCI has helped me to remain positive

93.42%
Agree

Because of participation in RCI activities, I feel less isolated

Dementia and Caregiver Support in the Chinese Community

With funding support from the Halton Region Community Investment Fund (HRCIF), RCI launched a pilot project in partnership with the Alzheimer Society (ASBHNHH) and Acclaim Health to support individuals living with dementia and their caregivers within the Halton Chinese community. The project was delivered in Chinese, addressing cultural and language barriers and filling a critical service gap.

The program offered dementia education lectures and caregiver training sessions to raise awareness and help prevent caregiver burnout. RCI also organized culturally appropriate engagement activities through “Tea Time Social”

dementia cafés—safe, welcoming spaces where individuals with dementia and their caregivers could socialize, relieve stress, share information, and receive peer support. Additionally, the project provided system navigation assistance, referrals, and facility tours to help families access available dementia support services.



PROGRAM IMPACT

100%

of participants agreed the Dementia Education lecture was useful

100%

reported improved knowledge of dementia

100%

of Tea Time Social participants found the activities helpful

The Dementia Café is very good for information and experience sharing.

We need more Dementia Cafés to bring people out and social.

The cafés help caregivers with mental health and stress relief. Please keep up the good work!

More opportunities like this are needed.

Community Collaboration and Cultural Celebrations

RCI successfully completed Year 1 of the Safe and Vital Community (SVC) Project entitled Community Collaboration and Cultural Celebrations with support from the Halton Regional Police and other community partners.

The project adopted a proactive approach through community collaboration and cultural celebrations to foster cultural appreciation, build mutual respect, and address the root causes of hate, ignorance, bias, and discrimination.

Key highlights included the organization of the 2025 Chinese New Year Celebration Event, where

the Halton Police Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) team participated for community outreach and engagement. Additionally, RCI distributed anti-fraud, anti-spam, and reporting brochures provided by Halton Regional Police and translated into Chinese to raise awareness and improve crime prevention, particularly among Chinese-speaking seniors and newcomers.

These educational efforts promoted protective factors, empowered residents with knowledge, and contributed to an overall safer and more inclusive community.





Lunar New Year Celebration Event

Redleaf Cultural Integration (RCI) hosted the largest Lunar New Year Celebration Gala in Halton at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre. The event welcomed over 800 attendees from Chinese and diverse cultural backgrounds. Guests enjoyed vibrant cultural displays in the atrium before taking in a series of high-quality performances in the main theater. The celebration received very positive feedback from both attendees and local media.

This event was a meaningful opportunity to showcase Chinese culture, promote cultural appreciation, and bring the community together in a spirit of unity and respect.



Financial Report

AUDITED		
For the year ended Oct. 31, 2024		
INCOME STATEMENT	2023/2024	2022/2023
Revenue		
Government Grants	\$ 150,824	\$ 165,090
Program income & membership	\$ 40,077	\$ 24,621
Sponsorship	\$ 13,300	\$ 14,650
Total Revenue	\$ 204,201	\$ 204,361
Expenses		
Salaries	\$ 76,856	\$ 73,277
Other operating expenses	\$ 98,371	\$ 96,688
Total Expenses	\$ 175,227	\$ 169,965
Net Surplus	\$ 28,974	\$ 34,396
BALANCE SHEET	2023/2024	2022/2023
Assets	\$ 202,733	\$ 171,692
Liabilities	\$ 41,238	\$ 39,171
Net Assets	\$ 161,495	\$ 132,521

Volunteer Award

Senior Programs Volunteers



Fengwu Tian



Minsong Sun



Cuiling Li



Jiaming Deng



Pingping Pan



Xinghua Zhang



Ruzhu Song



Luping Xing



Chunyan Fan



Yaling Huang



Musheng Wang



Rongjie Hu



Ping Li



Jing Li

Community Programs Volunteers



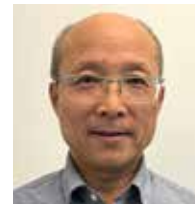
Lu Han



Zhiguang Qian



Yang Cong



Jingfang Zhang



Zhongning Yan



Ying Yu



Cuijiao Ma



Hui Zhang



Hong Sun



Jiahua Liang



Dongze Li

RCI IS PROUD TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING FUNDERS



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



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